

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

Volume 17, Number 3



COUNTERFEIT PISTAREENS

Featured in this issue

- Stewart on St. Patrick Coinage
- Miller Connecticut 1-E
- Unusual Mexican Counterfeit 8R
- Counterfeit Pistareens
- McMinn Token
- The *Mermaid* Remembered
- Indian Trade Silver
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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer

Dues are \$25-regular (including 1st class mailing of the Newsletter); \$10 for junior members (under 18).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Tempus Fugit" most certainly applies! I can't believe that the C4 Convention is only a few weeks away as I'm writing this! The planning is done, speakers obtained, exhibits arranged. Many members volunteered to make this convention a memorable event for you. Remember to thank the person on the other side of the lot viewing tables, the person giving an educational presentation, Chris and Bob for running the auction, and every volunteer you meet. Among the approximately 100 dealers on the bourse floor, about 30 will be specializing in colonial coinage. The only remaining task is for you to show up and have a good time!

A couple weeks ago Whitman held its first Convention in Philadelphia. I was fortunate to be able to attend Thursday, Friday and for the C4 Meeting on Saturday morning. There were many of my C4 friends in attendance and C4 dealers were doing a good business. I came home with some wonderful new acquisitions, too. From the dealers and collectors I spoke to, the convention was a success. Whitman already has the dates scheduled for 2010.

At the Summer ANA Convention in Los Angeles, C4 had a membership meeting on Saturday morning. Regional VP Dave Menchell ran the meeting in my absence. Reports from friends who attended the convention, and what I've read in the numismatic press, indicate that the convention was not as well attended as hoped. Was this because of the economy? The location? The hobby? It's difficult to say. But C4 Conventions have all been well attended and successful. Why, you ask??? Because . . . to one extent or another, we all share the same addiction.

Colonial numismatics doesn't seem to have been hit as hard as other numismatic areas in our hobby in the current economic climate. I attribute this to the average colonial collector being more than just a collector of coins – we also do research, share information, value close friends in the hobby, build topical libraries and we have FUN! Some of us even go through withdrawal when we go too long between purchasing a coin or book!

I challenge all of you attending the convention to bring a camera, meet others of like interest and just enjoy yourself. If you don't know anyone, find me and introduce yourself. When you get home, write down some of your observations and send them to Syd Martin as a "letter to the editor" for the next *Newsletter*.

Thinking of our newsletter, were you aware that it won third place in the ANA Specialty Club Publication Contest this summer? Congratulations to Syd and to all of you who contributed articles. I need to see a sample of the newsletters that won 1st & 2nd place! This *Newsletter* is what binds us all together. About 35% of our members are able to attend the convention each year, but everyone receives the *Newsletter*. Not only can you enjoy the contents, but you can also use it to make inquiries and ask questions. Make the most of all that C4 offers you.

Have FUN . . . See you in Boston
Ray Williams

FRANK STEWART ON MARK NEWBY AND THE ST. PATRICK COINAGE

(Joel J. Orosz and Len Augsburger)

*Just as Julius Caesar destroyed the Roman Republic while in the process of saving it, Frank Huling Stewart (1873-1948) demolished the First United States Mint in the process of commemorating it. In fairness, Stewart was a businessman, not a preservationist, and he needed the space occupied by the old Mint buildings to house his growing eponymously-named electric company. His acts of commemoration, moreover, were strikingly successful. Stewart carefully measured and photographed the Mint structures, inside and outside, before razing them. Afterwards, he commissioned two Mint-themed paintings that have become icons for modern-day coin collectors: "Ye Olde Mint" by Edwin Lamasure (1914), and "Inspection of the First Coins" by John Ward Dunsmore (1915). The authors of this article have spent the past four years intensively researching Frank Stewart's numismatic papers and artworks, which have reposed, untouched since his death, in the libraries and museums of the American Numismatic Association and the American Numismatic Society, at archival depositories in Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, D.C., in the less likely venues of Glassboro and Woodbury, New Jersey, and even in Lithopolis, Ohio. Private libraries in places as far-flung as Champaign, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri, and Colorado Springs, Colorado have also yielded valuable information. The authors have uncovered the full story of Stewart's purchase, ownership, and destruction of the first Mint buildings, plus the fate of the structure Stewart built to replace the Mint edifices. In addition, they have unearthed a treasure trove of never-before-published photographs, both interiors and exteriors, of the first Mint buildings, along with previously-unknown sketches and study paintings by Lamasure and Dunsmore, as well as little-known works by other artists inspired by the paintings of Lamasure and Dunsmore. All of these findings and illustrations will appear in their new book, *Pictures of the First United States Mint: The Numismatic Legacy of Frank H. Stewart*, to appear in late 2010. This article, excerpted from the book, appears with the kind permission of Whitman Publishing.*

Frank Huling Stewart (1873-1948), the owner of a very successful electric supply firm in Philadelphia, could boast of many significant numismatic accomplishments: he was the last private owner of the three main buildings of the first United States Mint; he tried to preserve them; he eventually demolished them; he ultimately commemorated them by commissioning Mint-themed artworks; and he fixed them forever into our memories by writing the *History of the First United States Mint* (1924). These were feathers enough for any numismatic cap, but they hardly exhaust the catalog of Stewart's achievements. He also wrote about the first Mint in two booklets, *Ye Olde Mint* (1909), and *Our New Home and Old Times* (1913), and he both formed and donated to a museum a significant collection of coins struck, and artifacts found, at the first Mint. Most of these milestones are well-remembered by today's collectors, but one of Stewart's literary exploits—arguably the most audacious of the bunch—is practically forgotten. At the

close of his long and productive life, Stewart chose to grapple with a subject that had bedeviled numismatic writers for literally a quarter of a millennium: a coinage conundrum imported into Stewart's native New Jersey from the Emerald Isle of Ireland.

Frank Stewart's last numismatic work was hardly his best, but was undoubtedly his bravest. In 1947, battling heart disease, and with but a year to live, Stewart tackled one of American numismatics' abiding enigmas, Mark Newby's St. Patrick coinage. Stewart's attraction to the Newby coppers paralleled that of Joseph C. Mitchelson, who took a similar interest in his own local coinage of Connecticut. When we last met Mitchelson, he was aggressively negotiating with Stewart, unsuccessfully, to obtain one of the silver center cent planchets discovered during the First Mint excavation. Mitchelson delivered a paper to the New York Numismatic Club in 1910, in which he explained his fascination with the Higley coppers of Connecticut:

"...as I have lived within a short distance of the place where these pieces were made, off and on, for my whole life, the [copper] mines being within sight of my home, I have consented to give the members here all the information that has come my way. Being interested in the subject probably more than anyone else on account of these coins having been made in my own town, I have made inquiries from all the old residents in that section of the country in the hope of being able to add something to the very little that is known regarding them. I have really devoted a lot of my time to the subject ever since I was a boy."

Mitchelson went on to relate further background on the subject of the Higleys.¹ Then, like Stewart, Mitchelson gifted his collection to an institution, in this case the Connecticut State Library.²

Stewart no doubt felt a similar sentimental attachment to the Newby coppers of West New Jersey, and, in spite of his age, his illness, and especially despite the well-nigh impenetrable mysteries surrounding his subject, Stewart did a credible job. True, he made some errors in his 1921 article, "Mark Newby: The First Banker in New Jersey and his Patrick Halfpence," but that put him in the select company of Dr. Edward Maris and Sylvester Sage Crosby, among others. In fact it is not too much to say that the St. Patrick coinage has baffled historians and fabulists alike since they were first struck more than three centuries ago. This coinage remains a puzzle; so much so that, in 2006, the American Numismatic Society convened a Coinage of the Americas Conference exclusively to delve into its stubborn set of secrets.

There is general agreement that the St. Patrick coins first came to America through the hands of Mark Newby, a Quaker born in England around 1638, who emigrated from Ireland to New Jersey on November 18, 1681.³ Once in "West Jersey" (today's southern portion of the state, bordering the Delaware River), Newby became involved in the finances and politics of his home township of Newton. He was elected to the Second Session of the General Free Assembly of West Jersey, which met in early May of 1682. During that session an act passed that tied him forever to the St. Patrick coinage:

And for the more Convenient paymt. of small summes, bee it Enacted, by Authority aforesaid, that Marke Newbie's halfe pence called Patrick's halfe pence shall, from and after the said Eighteenth Instant, passe for halfe pence Current pay of this Province, provided hee the said Marke give sufficient security to the speaker of this house for the use of the Generall Assembly from tyme to tyme being.⁴

This act provided New Jersey with its first circulating coins, gave Britain's American provinces their first official copper coinage, and made Mark Newby, who was required to post 300 acres of land as security, one of the province's first bankers.⁵

Newby's story was similar to that of Joseph Stewart, Frank H. Stewart's immigrant ancestor, seven generations back in the paternal line of Stewart's family tree. Stewart came from England to America in 1682 with a group of persecuted Quakers. Fourteen years old at the time, Stewart's previous involvement in the Quaker community is unknown, but clearly he was an active member following his arrival, and he married within the church. Like Newby he settled in West Jersey, acquiring property that remained in the family as late as 1907.⁶ The Newby coinage thus resonated with Stewart not just because of geographical proximity, but because of cultural and religious reasons as well.

The aforementioned facts are known for sure about the St. Patrick coinage. Just about everything else surrounding it is prone to dispute. To start with, the coinage comes in two planchet sizes, neither of which bears a denomination on its face. By tradition, the smaller coin is called a farthing and the larger is denominated a halfpence, although the "farthings" are much heavier than other 17th century Irish farthings. The basic obverse of both farthing and halfpence depicts a kneeling king playing a harp, with the Latin motto FLOREAT REX (may the king prosper), divided by a crown. The reverse of both farthing and halfpence depicts St. Patrick, although on the farthing he holds a metropolitan cross with the motto QUIESCANT PLEBS (may the people be at ease), while on the halfpence the saint holds a crozier in his left hand and a trefoil in his right, surrounded by people, with the arms of the city of Dublin in a shield to his left, with the motto ECCE GREX (behold the flock). A distinctive anti-counterfeiting device was a brass splasher, usually applied over the crown on the obverse, thus making the St. Patrick's the first bimetallic coin to circulate in the British provinces. Both halfpennies and farthings boasted reeded edges to deter would-be clippers. The halfpence are many times scarcer than the farthings, but both come in a bewildering assortment of die varieties (about 30 for the halfpence, and more than 250 for the farthings), many of the varieties known by only one or two survivors.⁷ Why there should be such a profusion of varieties has never been satisfactorily explained.

Another important point in dispute is when the coins were struck. Numismatic writers William Nicholson, the Bishop of Derry, in *The Irish Historical Library* (1724); Stephen Martin Leake, in *Nummis Britannici Historia: or, An Historical Account of English Money, from the Conquest to the Uniting of the Two Kingdoms by James I, and*

of Great Britain to the Present Time (1726); James Simon, in *An essay Towards an Historical Account of Irish Coins and of the Currency of Foreign Monies in Ireland* (1749); and Henry Noel Humphreys, in *The Coin Collector's Manual, Volume 1, or Guide to the Numismatic Student in the Formation of a Cabinet of Coins* (1853) all asserted a striking date of 1641 or 1642, thus associating the St. Patricks with King Charles the First of England. Sylvester Sage Crosby, in *The Early Coins of America* (1875); Edward Maris, in *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey, With a Plate* (1881); and Aquilla Smith, in "On the Copper Coins Commonly Called St. Patrick's" from *The Proceedings of the Kilkenny and South-Eastern Archaeological Society* (1855) cited sources including John Evelyn, in *Numismata: A Discourse of Medals Antient and Modern* (1697); and Walter Harris, in *The History and Antiquities of the City of Dublin* (1766) to claim that the coinage was struck during the 1670s and circulated on the Isle of Man, thus associating them with King Charles the Second.

Along with the question of when, there is the riddle of where. Given the Irish devices on the coins, most authorities have assumed that they were minted in Dublin, by the British Colonial authorities, or in Kilkenny, by the Catholic Confederation that existed from 1642 to 1648. Alternatively, Crosby quotes Dr. Robert Cane as concluding that the St. Patrick coinage was struck on the continent of Europe and brought to Ireland for the use of the Catholic Confederation.⁸ More recently, Brian J. Danforth presented extensive research to buttress his findings that the person responsible for striking the coins was Pierre (Peter) Blondeau at the London Tower Mint, and that the coins were circulated in 1667-1669 by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, James Butler, Lord Ormond, as a non-regal issue, primarily in order to pay the army during a turbulent period in Irish history.⁹ Danforth's conclusions have not been universally accepted; William Nipper, for example, notes that Sir Edward Ford, a knight and inventor, in 1664 made a proposal to the Fishery Company to coin farthings from Swedish copper. His plan was ultimately rejected, but as a consolation prize of sorts, he was granted permission to make farthings for Ireland. Ford went to the Emerald Isle, but died there before he could put his plan into operation. It is unclear if anyone in Ireland was able to pick up Ford's fallen banner and strike halfpence there.¹⁰

The uncertainty swirling around the St. Patrick coinage extends even to the identity of the king on the obverse of both the farthing and the halfpence. Most of the numismatists who have studied these pieces see in the kneeling king playing the harp a clear reference to the Old Testament King David, who has been depicted in this pose in numerous images that date back more than a thousand years. Edward Maris, however, perceived a double identity: "In the figure representing King David kneeling, I recognize the undoubted features of Charles the First."¹¹ Walter Breen heartily concurred in his *Encyclopedia*, and added that this conclusively proved that the St. Patrick coinage was struck during the reign of that monarch.¹²

Any writer willing to step into this numismatic Chinese puzzle wins points for moxie, but Frank Stewart had a dual inducement for doing so. Not only had his ownership of the first Mint buildings provided him with an interest in early American numismatics, but his penchant for history, especially that of his home state of New

Jersey, made Mark Newby and his St. Patrick coinage an irresistible subject. The first money in New Jersey handled by the province's first banker: here was a magnetic attraction. Stewart approached it (along with other topics) in a pamphlet published by the Gloucester County Historical Society when he presided over that institution, "Notes on Old Gloucester County." The editor of *The Numismatist*, Frank G. Duffield, read Stewart's "Notes," and issued an invitation to write an article on Newby and his coinage. Stewart complied, and "Mark Newby and his Patrick halfpence" appeared in *The Numismatist* for February 1921.

In this piece, Stewart stuck mainly to Mark Newby's biography, with only small excursions into the subject of the St. Patrick coinage. Stewart got the details pretty much right, and his most glaring error—the statement that Newby was a resident of London and lived in Ireland only a short time before emigrating to New Jersey—was due to the paucity of information available in 1921. It was not until David Gladfelter's research was published in 1974 that it became clear that Newby had lived in Dublin from 1663 to 1681.¹³ Stewart ventured into less certain territory when he talked about the St. Patrick coinage, for as the title suggests, he covered only the halfpence, utterly ignoring the farthing. His confusion deepened when he quoted from Francis Bazley Lee's 1902 *History of New Jersey as a Colony and as a State* that there are two common varieties of the coin, then went on to describe the farthing and the halfpence as if they were merely in fact two varieties of the same coin.¹⁴

For more than a quarter century after the publication of the article in *The Numismatist*, Stewart wrote no more of Newby and the St. Patrick coinage, but his interest in the man and the money never flagged. Finally, in 1947, Stewart, by now the President Emeritus of the Gloucester County Historical Society, published a second article on the subject, "Mark Newby: The First Banker in New Jersey and His Patrick Halfpence." This article appeared in a pamphlet, published by the Society, that served as an anthology of Stewart's writings on miscellaneous topics of New Jersey history. The other articles, eight in all, range from "Letters of George Washington" to "Early Settlers in Newton Township," and include two pieces that focus on artifacts from the Stewart collection destined to find a home at Rowan University: Betsy Ross' marriage license and the "Safe Conduct Pass" issued by Virginia Indians to Captain John Smith in 1607.

Stewart's foreword to his Newby article begins with a confession of "a couple of errors" in his 1921 article in *The Numismatist*.¹⁵ He took care to correct his earlier misunderstanding regarding "varieties" of the coins when he noted "they were of two sizes, the smaller of which is now termed a farthing."¹⁶ And Stewart knew whereof he spoke about the halfpence and the farthing, for he disclosed: "The writer has two of the large and six of the small size in his possession, and there is another one he gave to the city of Philadelphia, with the rarities of the First United States Mint, 1792-1832."¹⁷ Actually, Stewart's collection totaled 14 St. Patricks, for "Since the preceding pages were set in type, an auction sale of six of Newby's coins by the Numismatic Gallery occurred at the Buffalo, N.Y. convention of the American Numismatic Association August 23-27, 1947. The writer was fortunate in securing all six of the specimens by mail bids."¹⁸ Indeed, Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg, doing business as the Numismatic Gallery,

offered six examples of St. Patrick coinage from the Prann collection in their *ANA 1947 Convention Auction Sale*, as Lots 921 “halfpenny”; 922 “halfpenny”; 923 “farthing”; 924 “farthing”; 925 “farthing”; and 926 “farthing in silver.” Stewart’s successful bids were: 921—\$13; 922—\$17.50; 923—\$12; 924—\$8.50; 925—\$5; and 926—\$26.¹⁹ The Master of the Mint thus swept the field on these six coins with bids that totaled \$82.

Stewart’s first-hand acquaintance with the coins allowed him to describe them minutely, if somewhat colorfully. For example, after discussing the assorted birds, snakes and turtles found on various specimens, Stewart saved time and printer’s ink by saying that the reverse of one of his farthings “shows the usual ‘varments’.”²⁰ He was unaware, however, of the use of the brass splasher as an anti-counterfeiting device, for in describing another of his farthings, he wrote that “some previous owner has tested the king’s head with a drop of acid which has left a brassy appearance.”²¹ In general, Stewart’s descriptions are closely-observed, allowing the specialist to identify the varieties he held in his collection. The half-tone illustrations published in his pamphlet, however, are not of his coins, but rather appeared “...by the friendly cooperation of Wayte Raymond, Inc., Mineola, New York.”²²

This pamphlet amply displays Stewart’s strengths as an historian, especially the publication of original research. The inventory of Mark Newby’s personal property; the bond of Newby’s wife Hannah, in connection with his estate; items about Mark Newby’s land holdings; and information regarding the genealogy of the Newby family – all served to illuminate the context of his life. As is usual with Stewart, however, these primary documents are presented verbatim, with little in the way of original insights.

Stewart did make one exceptional foray into analysis, and the pamphlet frankly would have been stronger without it. Noting that the inventory of Newby’s estate contained one small iron furnace, one pair of small scales and weights, three sieves, along with quantities of silver plate, pewter and brass, Stewart concluded: “I know from the research for my history of ‘The First United States Mint, its People and Its Operations,’ scattered over a period of 17 years, that all of these items would be essential for a mint such as Mark Newby might have had on his plantation in Old Gloucester County....”²³ Stewart was sufficiently intrigued to entitle a subheading of his pamphlet “Did Newby Strike Coins at Newton?” which question he never quite explicitly answered in the affirmative, although he did say that “the inventory of the estate printed herewith tends to suggest he hoped to strike some here in New Jersey.”²⁴ Unfortunately, Frank Stewart stands alone on this question, for no other scholar believes that Newby struck any of his St. Patrick coinage in New Jersey.

Stewart closed his little pamphlet—and his numismatic literature career—with graceful admissions that his was not the last word on the subject. After a brief digression on the topic of United States 1804 silver dollars, Stewart wrote “...Newby’s Patrick halfpence...are a greater mystery than the ‘gem of our coinage’....”²⁵ And, in a sentence that could serve as a coda for any scholar who has grappled with this demanding topic, he concluded “The writer has been trying to catch up with Newby since 1918 and still has some distance to travel.”²⁶

Mark Newby and the St. Patrick coinage provide the perfect platform for Frank Stewart, mixing seamlessly as it does his two great writing passions: New Jersey history and numismatics. As an enthusiastic amateur, Stewart delved deeply into Mark Newby's biography and unearthed what he could about the St. Patrick farthings and halfpence. What he found, he shared openly with all, and what baffled him, he also freely admitted. In light of such passion and generosity, it seems ungenerous to quibble too much with his errors, particularly given the inherent difficulty of the topic he chose. Frank Stewart's farewell article was thus not a triumph, but it was a microcosm of the man and his honest efforts to expand the boundaries of knowledge in his chosen fields. That should be enough for all who, like Stewart, still have "some distance to travel" in pursuit of numismatic truth.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ "The Higley Coppers," *The Numismatist*, Vol. 40, No. 12, December, 1927, 740-743, citing Mehl's *Numismatic Monthly*, June, 1910. Also see *The Numismatist*, Vol. 23, No. 4, April, 1910, 121 and Vol. 23, No. 5, June, 1910, 152.
- ² Q. David Bowers, "Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins," Atlanta, GA: Whitman Publishing, 2009., 233.
- ³ Roger S. Siboni and Vicken Yegparian, "Mark Newby and His St. Patrick Halfpence," in Oliver D. Hoover, ed., *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, Coinage of the Americas Conference Proceedings, No. 16, New York: The American Numismatic Society, 2009, 290, 298.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 298.
- ⁵ William Nipper, "Old and New Takes on the St. Patrick Coinage," in Hoover, ed., *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, 69.
- ⁶ E. S. Steward, "The Steward Family of New Jersey," Philadelphia: Press of Allen, Lane & Scott, 1907, 11.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, 71.
- ⁸ Sylvester Sage Crosby, *The Early Coins of America*, Boston: Published by the author, 1875, 136.
- ⁹ Brian J. Danforth, "St. Patrick Coinage Revisited," *The Colonial Newsletter*, 45, April 2005, 2786.
- ¹⁰ Nipper, "Old and New Takes on the St. Patrick Coinage," in Hoover, ed., *Newby's St. Patrick Coinage*, 94-97.
- ¹¹ Edward Maris, *A Historic Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey, with a Plate*, Philadelphia: printed for the author, 1881, 4.
- ¹² Walter Breen, *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, New York: Doubleday, 1988, 34.
- ¹³ David Gladfelter, "Mark Newby: Quaker Pioneer," *Token and Medal Society Journal*, 14, No. 5, (1974), 171.

¹⁴ Frank H. Stewart, "Mark Newby and His Patrick Halfpence," *The Numismatist*, XXXIV, No. 2, February 1921, 45.

¹⁵ Frank H. Stewart, "Mark Newby: The First Banker in New Jersey and His Patrick Halfpence," Woodbury, NJ: The Gloucester County Historical Society, 1947, 3.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid., 8.

¹⁹ Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg, *ANA 1947 Convention Auction Sale*, New York: Numismatic Gallery, 1947, Lots 921-926.

²⁰ Stewart, "Mark Newby: The First Banker in New Jersey," 7.

²¹ Ibid., 9.

²² Ibid., 5.

²³ Ibid., 11.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid., 15.

²⁶ Ibid.



Randy Clark sent a clipping from the *New Haven Gazette* of 24 March 1785, that seems highly appropriate given the times:

Mess. Printers,
MONEY is the Root of all Evil
We may therefore expect better
Times since this Root of Evil is now ve-
ry scarce.

WAS 1785 MILLER 1-E STRUCK ON A CAST BLANK AS SUGGESTED BY WALTER BREEN – ONE MAN'S QUEST TO FIND THE ANSWER

(Christopher R. McDowell)

One of the great things about Connecticut coppers is the complexity of the series and the amount of research done by famous collectors of the past and the opportunity for new discoveries that still remain. Something else that makes Connecticut special is how open, honest, and accessible the people currently working in the field are.

A little over a year ago, I acquired a 1785 Miller 1-E – the first coin listed by Miller number in the Connecticut series. The coin is not particularly rare (now considered an R-4) and the coin I purchased is of high quality showing great detail with a nice surface. If I am able, I study each variety before I purchase the coin. Otherwise, I study the individual coin and the variety afterwards until I think I have learned everything that I reasonably can about the coin. When studying the 1-E, I came across something that perplexed me. In the February 1975 Pine Tree Auction Catalog, Walter Breen wrote in his description of lot 1, a 1785 Miller 1-E, that the coin had a "moderately smooth planchet (probably struck on a cast blank)."

Why would the Company for Coining Coppers create a cast blank and then strike the coin on the cast blank, I asked myself. Maybe they did it because they were in a hurry to get operations underway in 1785, having received permission from Connecticut to coin coppers only in late October of that year. Perhaps, the machinery needed to roll the copper was not yet available and they found it more expedient to make cast blanks. In the alternative, perhaps Breen was incorrect in his assumption – after all, Breen did hedge his comment by stating it was "probably" struck on a cast blank. In 1975, there were less than 20 known examples of Miller 1-E, so Breen could not have examined many 1-E's before making his comment. Certainly, I thought, this question of a cast blank has been definitively answered in the over thirty years since EAC '75. Moreover, if it has not been answered, there must be a simple test that can be conducted to close the book on this issue. With all of these thoughts in mind, I set out on a quest to determine if 1785 Miller 1-E is struck on a cast blank.

The first thing I needed to do was determine if Breen answered the question in a later writing. I read or reread everything that Breen wrote on the series to see if the topic ever came up again. Nowhere did I find that Breen ever made mention of any Connecticut being struck on a cast blank after his 1975 comment. I then read or reread other articles on the series to determine if anyone else had answered the question and found nothing. Having exhausted my library for an answer, I next decided to simply ask people what they thought.

Over the next year, I attended several shows where I talked to local and national dealers and asked them for their thoughts on the topic. In addition, I communicated with several others over the telephone and e-mail. The answers I received fell into one of

three categories: about a third of the people I questioned agreed with Breen that the variety is indeed struck on a cast blank, another third thought it is not struck on a cast blank, and the remaining third had no idea what I was talking about. When I pressed those people who seemed to have a strong opinion, no one could adequately support their conclusion. Accordingly, if I was going to get an answer to my question, I was going to have to conduct my own research.

I asked several experts what tests can be conducted on a coin to determine if it is struck on a cast blank. Many people indicated to me that a cast coin has a certain ring when dropped. I bought a few modern cast counterfeit Connecticut coins and all of them have a different ring from an authentic coin. As everyone knows, on a cast coin there is normally a ridge along the edge and a place where the copper is cut - these differences from an authentic coin are easily observed either with the naked eye or under magnification. None of the 1785 Miller 1-E coins that I examined had these signs. Was this the answer I was looking for? Had I proven Breen wrong? Not so fast. Breen, even in 1975 and with a limited number of examples to look at, would have known all of this. Why, in the face of this evidence would he have written that 1-E was probably struck on a cast blank? As I learned, the answer is in the difference between a cast coin and a coin struck on a cast blank. Breen was not saying the coin was a cast coin, he was saying that it was probably struck on a cast blank. All of these tests go to determine if a coin is a cast coin, not if the coin is struck on a cast blank, which is an entirely different process that may not exhibit any of the normal signs associated with cast coins. Obviously, in order to answer the question, I was going to need some expert assistance, so I contacted Randy Clark and Dr. Phil Mossman, both of whom I have come to admire and respect from their research and writing.

I had never communicated with either Randy or Dr. Mossman before. I approached Randy with my question and an idea to gather a group of 1-E coins and determine their specific gravity. My belief was that a cast, even a struck cast blank, would have a lower specific gravity than a rolled planchet coin because air is trapped inside a cast coin making it lighter. Randy could not have been more friendly and helpful in his encouragement to find the answer. In order to answer some of the more detailed questions concerning my scientific experiment, I contacted Dr. Mossman. Obviously, Dr. Mossman has better things to do than assist someone he does not know by explaining how to conduct experiments on coins - but you would never know it by his detailed and lengthy posts to me. Dr. Mossman patiently answered all of my questions and even consulted with a colleague of his who is a physicist to determine if what I proposed was possible. Unfortunately, Dr. Mossman concluded that the question could not be answered with a specific gravity test as the difference in specific gravity would be minimal. Moreover, Dr. Mossman was of the opinion that Breen's evidence of the coin being on a struck cast blank was "pretty skimpy" and that ultimately there really was no feasible scientific experiment that would yield the definitive answer I sought.

At this point, it looked as if I had hit a dead end and would never obtain the definitive answer to my question. In the mean time, I purchased from Jeff Rock all of the available Rosa Americana fixed price lists. I had previously learned from Clement Schettino that he kept copies of the lists because the descriptions were often helpful. I contacted Rock who sold me extra copies of his old lists. One night, while conducting research on another coin, I decided to see if Jeff ever mentioned Breen's statement concerning I-E being struck on a cast blank. As luck would have it, in the Summer, 1994 Fixed Price List #9, I found the following description regarding lot 82, a 1785 Miller I-E: "[t]he planchet is a slightly rough medium brown [this is the usually seen surface quality that caused Walter Breen to speculate in the 1975 EAC sale that these planchets may have actually been cast, rather than cut from strips; as this piece exhibits a small planchet clip at K-9, it was definitely cut from a strip]." Alas, my answer. If there are 1785 Miller I-E's with planchet clips, that would seem to prove rather conclusively that the variety was not struck on a cast blank. Unfortunately, Jeff's fixed price list #9, unlike his later lists, does not have photographs of the coins. Before I would accept Breen's theory as dead, I felt I needed to see photographs of several clipped I-E's.

I contacted Randy and Dr. Mossman to see if they agreed that a clipped planchet was indeed inconsistent with the coin being struck on a cast blank - both agreed. Because a clipped planchet occurs when a blank is cut from a strip of rolled copper, a clipped planchet is totally contrary to a coin being struck from a cast blank, because a cast blank is not cut from a strip and, therefore, there would never be an opportunity to clip the blank. While it is conceivable that someone would create a cast that had a clip-like indentation in it, this really is highly improbable. I contacted Jeff to see if he had a photograph of lot 82 from his #9 list, but he did not. I then set out to look at every auction of 1785 Miller I-E coins in my library to determine if there were any photographs of clipped I-E's and if so, to see if the clips were always the same shape. My thought being that if all of the clips are the same, perhaps a cast with a clip-like indentation was created; however, if the clips are different in shape, that would settle the issue once and for all.

Eventually, I found what I was looking for. Lot 51, in the Twelfth Annual C-4 Convention Sale, December 2, 2006, is a 1785 Miller I-E (Figure 1). The coin is also shown in color on the cover of the catalog. The photograph and the description of the coin, possibly the finest known, indicates that it has "a small planchet clip." The same day that I found this photograph, Randy sent me two additional photographs of different I-E's (Figure 2) that he found that also depicted planchet clips. All of the clips were slightly different in shape and depth. Accordingly, I now have the definitive answer I was looking for - 1785 Miller I-E was NOT struck on a cast blank as suggested by Walter Breen in 1975.



Figure 1. Clipped 1-E Connecticut, From the C4 Auction, 2006.



Figure 2. Two additional examples of clipped 1-E coppers.

******THE SPANISH-AMERICAN CORNER******

MY FAVORITE SPANISH AMERICAN COUNTERFEIT

(Gord Nichols)

I wanted to present one of my favorite Spanish American counterfeit coins, and in the process of selecting I found myself considering only those that were struck from the most crudely cut dies. My first guess as to why this was, is that they are different from the norm, that is to say different from the regal example which all counterfeits were modeled on.

A coin can differ from its regal counterpart in a number of ways. One way is to have obvious errors. The simplest of these are spelling errors in the legends. Included in this group are errors in the ordinal, denomination, mintmarks or the mint master's and assayer's marks. My chosen coin has none of these errors.



Artistically though, it might be argued to be a disaster. The bust of Carolus III is far from accurate but the line from forehead to tip of proboscis is definitely his. The lettering is so naive as to be endearing, being cut into the dies in different sizes and at varying angles. The pillars are uneven with the left one being notably higher than the right. A large part of the reverse is not struck up also due to inexperience of the die cutter. Overall a mess but oddly attractive.

SOME THOUGHTS ON COUNTERFEIT PISTAREENS

(Marc Mayhugh)

The Spanish pistareen was a very popular coin that saw extensive circulation in the North American colonies, the West Indies, and the United States, in spite of the fact that it never achieved legal tender status in the US.¹ The pistareen was produced at the Spanish mainland mints, and while stamped as two reales, it was composed of debased silver which lowered its value. Simply put, the pistareen was a 20 cent piece², while the 2 reale pieces struck in the Spanish North and South American mints were valued as 25 cents. Another way of looking at it would be five Spanish provincial pistareens equaled a Spanish dollar, compared to four to the dollar for the 2 reale pieces made at the Spanish American colonial mints. The lower value of the pistareen spared it from the melting pot, as well as exportation, allowing it to circulate freely in areas where it was sorely needed. The pistareen has been called, "the unsung hero among other contemporary Spanish American coinage which circulated widely in the colonies."³ The popularity of the pistareen also made it a prime target for counterfeiting.

The pistareen consisted of two different designs (Figure 1): (1) the cross pistareen which displayed an obverse composed of a cross dividing the arms of Spain and the date (1707-1771), and (2) the head pistareen, which depicted the Spanish monarch's bust (1772-1833). There were a few exceptions to this, for example, the early pistareens of Phillip V dated 1707 and 1708 did not utilize the cross; the pistareens of Charles III,



Figure 1. Examples of Genuine Cross and Bust Pistareens

pretender to the throne of Spain, which were never legal tender in Spain; and the issues of Joseph Napoleon (another pretender) and Isabella. For simplicity's sake, this short article intends to deal primarily with counterfeit cross and head pistareens of the Spanish Kings, although each of the above mentioned pieces were counterfeited in their own right. The cross provincial two reales also appears to have been minted earlier under Philip IV, but these coins seem to have had a higher silver content than those I intend to cover, and I have yet to discover any that were counterfeited; therefore, they are excluded (see *Standard Catalog of World coins: Spain, Portugal and the New World* by Krause and Mishler). The dates of 1707-1833 also correspond with the coins designated as pistareens in the Schinkle reference.

In his fascinating and comprehensive work on pistareens, John Kleeberg has stated in his summary that, "By the end of the colonial period the pistareen was being counterfeited throughout the thirteen colonies, and numismatic evidence suggests that counterfeiters of pistareens also counterfeited halfpence, which were approximately the same size, although heavier in weight."⁴ (See Figure 2 for examples of counterfeit pistareens.) He suggests that the small amount of silver struck at Machin's mills, referred



Figure 2. Examples of Counterfeit Cross and Bust Pistareens

to by Machin's son, were pisatreens or counterfeit 2 reales, which makes perfect sense, being of the same size, and therefore, easily interchangeable.⁵ This would make Machin's mills, in all probability, the site of the first machine struck counterfeit pistareens in America. The other, earlier cited false pistareens by Kleeberg, mostly pre-1775 and taken from Kenneth Scott's series of books on counterfeiting, were probably all made from the casting process.

As time passed and technology improved, New York City, or nearby surroundings, became the hub of counterfeiting and, no doubt, the source of many fake pistareens. It has been stated that by the time of the Civil War, 50% of all money in the US was bogus.⁶ An interesting article making reference to a false pistareen comes from an 1860 auction catalog, where a two piece lot catalogued under "Old German Dollars" had this to say,

Lot 163 Guilder, East India company, and a Beekman St. pistareen, fine.

The article goes on to say "pistareen was a term for a Spanish fractional silver coin made in Spain," but, apparently, the reference here is to a copy or counterfeit produced in New York City on Beekman Street. It is known that in the early 19th Century there were a number of enterprising mints that turned out Spanish and, mostly, Spanish-American silver and gold coins in imitation of the originals. Such pieces have never been catalogued in detailed numismatic references, and the field is largely unrecognized today. However, in 1860 is a note of a little silver piece apparently made not far from where the auction itself was being held.⁷ Unfortunately, these pieces are still not catalogued, and the field is still largely unrecognized. As time passes, and more research is done, perhaps more information about these secret mints and their coins will turn up.

An interesting aspect of counterfeit pistareens is their die alignment. Mr. Keeberg maintains that a 1723 copper piece in the ANS collection was probably made in Britain, Ireland, or North America, because of it's six o'clock, or coin turn, die alignment. This is a typical English style die orientation. All genuine pistareens, and other Spanish silver as well, were always aligned at 12 o'clock or medal turn. This may be an excellent way of determining if a questionable Spanish silver coin is counterfeit.⁸ If the die alignment is coin turn, it is most likely a counterfeit; however, does this mean that a known counterfeit pistareen was produced in a certain area simply because it employs a die alignment other than the Spanish medal turn? I would think not. Turn that around, and take for example the counterfeit British halfpenny known as the "Lanky Letters" variety. The main characteristic of this coin is it's large, distinctive, handcut letters, yet many varieties of this coin come medal turn rather than the typical English coin turn orientation. Does this mean they were produced in Spain? Some Lanky Letters also have the English coin turn die orientation, which would indicate to me a capriciousness of the mint master more than anything else. I would think this would apply to all counterfeit coins, and even to the primitive state coinages of America, as many of them are known with various degrees of die orientation, including both the medal and coin turn alignments. As a matter of fact, all the St. Patrick halfpence and farthings in the Norweb sale are medal turn, or within 15 degrees either way of being so, and this is a coin, I'm sure, most would consider of Anglo

origin. However, despite this, my own modest collection of counterfeit pistareens may bear out Kleeberg's thinking. Most all of my 23 counterfeit pistareens were acquired from European dealers, mostly Spanish, and, guess what? All but one are of the Spanish medal turn die orientation!

This brings us to the point, why do we think most counterfeit pistareens were made in America or England? It is my belief that a great many of them were actually made in Spain. I base this on the fact that the only reference that I know of that numbers and lists counterfeit pistareens chronologically, and by metal composition, is the Spanish reference book, *Catalogo General de la Moneda Falsa Espanola*, by Luis Barrera Coronado. This book, which lists all types of Spanish counterfeits, is a treasure trove of information, and I highly recommend it anyone with an interest in the series. My only regret is that it is entirely in Spanish. A translation of the text would be most valuable to American collectors. As far as counterfeit pistareens go, Coronado lists over 100 pieces, and plates nearly 50.

It is my belief that counterfeit pistareens will one day become very popular and sought after colonial coins. Every colonial collection should contain a few counterfeit pistareens along with several genuine pieces considering their long circulation in America. A very basic type set could include one Cross style counterfeit and one Head style forgery. If one wanted to elaborate, they could include one of each style in various metals. They are produced in copper, brass, base silver, and German silver. Personally, I would include one piece of the Charles III (the Austrian pretender) fake pistareens, simply because it is known to be overstruck with Machin's Mills pieces.⁹ The fact that the only known Machin pieces overstruck on false pistareens is the variety V.6-76A is quite interesting. The fact that these two pieces are both struck over 1709 dated counterfeits of the Austrian pretender, Charles III, is even more amazing.¹⁰ In my opinion this would indicate that both these pieces were being struck at Machin's Mill, and these two represent either accidental strikings or *pieces de caprice*. Finally, if one were to be extremely ambitious, a complete date set of counterfeits corresponding to regal dates could be assembled.

In closing, it would be beneficial if some sort of numbering or classification system were to be devised. This is something I haven't given much thought to until recently. How one would go about it, I'm not quite sure. I think the date would be the first thing to be mentioned. Since we are dealing with coinage produced in the 18th and 19th centuries, it should probably be the full date. Next, I would think the monarch would have to be listed, i.e., CIII for Charles the Third; for Charles III, pretender to the Spanish throne, perhaps CIIIP. This would be followed by the Mint and the assayer. Simple initials would work here except for the mints of Sevilla and Segovia, both of which begin with an "S" and end in "A". I would suggest SL for Sevilla, and SG for Segovia. All this would be followed by the metal composition: BR=brass, BS=base silver, C=copper, SPBR=silver plated brass, and GS for German silver, and possibly Unk=unknown. Whether a cross or a head type could also be included. Hence, a brass, 1722, cross counterfeit pistareen of Philip V, bearing a Madrid mintmark, and the assayer's initial of J would be numbered "1722-PV-M-J-BR-cross A". The A-Z system would have to be

utilized at the end to differentiate between new die varieties of the same type. Thus, a similar type piece with different dies would then be "I722-PV-M-J-BR-cross B". This may appear a little unwieldy and cumbersome, but for now I know of nothing better and would like very much to hear from someone with a better idea, of which I'm sure someone more capable than myself could devise.

ENDNOTES

¹ Schilke, Oscar G. and Raphael E. Solomon. *America's Foreign Coins: An Illustrated Standard Catalogue with Valuations of Foreign Coins with Legal Tender Status in The United States 1793-1857*, 1964, p. 73.

² *ibid.*

³ Mossman, Philip L. *Money: Of The American Colonies and Confederation, A Numismatic, economic, & Historical Correlation*, 1992, p. 61.

⁴ Kleeborg, John M., "A Coin Perfectly Familiar to Us All - The Role of the Pistareen," *The Colonial Newsletter*, vol. 38, no. 3, December 1998, Serial No. 109, p. 1873.

⁵ *ibid*, p. 1859.

⁶ Divignon, Keith and Bradley S. Karoleff. "Circulating Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars, 1807-1839," *Coinage of the Americas Conference*, ANS. Nov. 7, 1998, p. 53.

⁷ Bowers and Merena, Sept. 11, 1994, "A Visit to an 1860 Auction," http://www.pcg.com/articles/article_view.html?artid=128&universeid=313&type=1; (Appearing on the internet under PCGS Library).

⁸ Kleeborg, p. 1859.

⁹ *ibid*, p. 1861.

¹⁰ *ibid*, p. 1861.

Photo of Cross Pistareen provided by Byron Weston; that of the Bust Pistareen by Jack Howes; counterfeits by Mark Mayhugh.

1st ANNUAL WHITMAN PHILADELPHIA COIN EXPO AND ASSOCIATED C4 MEETING

Whitman Coins and Collectibles presented their first annual Philadelphia Coin Expo during 24-26 September 2009. All who attended judged it a real success. Associated auctions drew enthusiastic bidders, with several auction records established (e.g., a Jefferson Peace Medal hammering for \$300,000). To the eye of your editor, it appeared that rare and/or high-grade colonials were strong, with mid-grade and generic colonials faltering. However, the bourse was active, with many colonial coins changing hands, and one or two really great "finds" reported.

The C4 club meeting, held Saturday morning, was well attended.. Discussions included:

- The financial status of C4 – very good, with details to be supplied at the annual convention in November.
- Publications sponsored by C4 – including Lou Jordan's book on Baltimore silver and Syd Martin's book on Rosa Americana coinage.
- Dave Bower's book *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins* – the consensus was that this is a superb start at bringing essential information together in one place. It was noted that many copies were seen being used by collectors on the bourse.
- General view of the show – positive, with an expressed feeling that having the show on an annual basis, at the heart of colonial history, will be good.
- What to expect at the C4 annual convention of 2009 [note: program provided elsewhere in the *Newsletter*].
- Discussion of the election of C4 Officers that will be conducted during the summer of 2010, particularly noting that Ray Williams has decided – after ten years – not to run for President again.

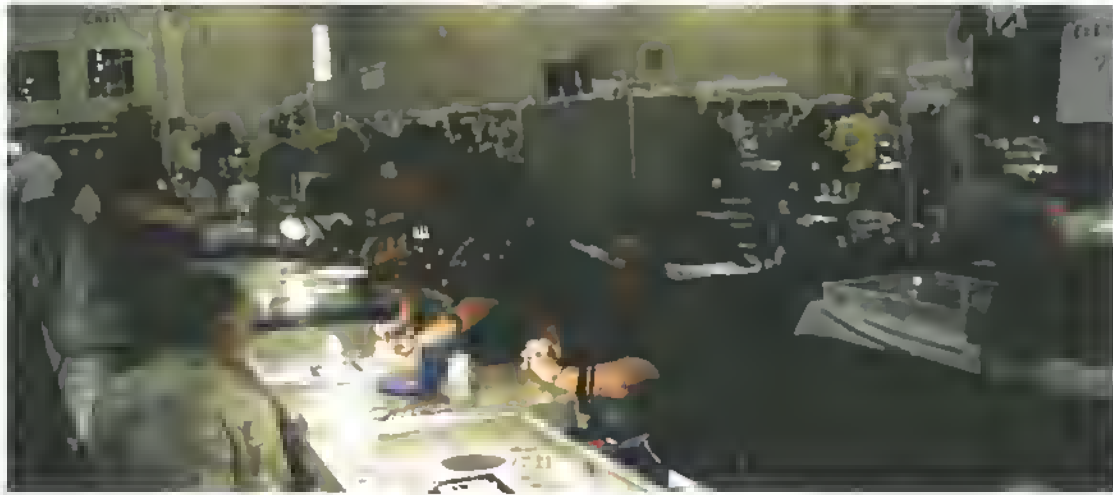
The following two pages present representative photographs taken during the Expo.



Visitors were greeted by General Washington, as well as Abraham Lincoln and the entire Whitman crew.



An overview of the bourse area.



The table of Coin Rarities, one of the many dealers in colonial coins that participated in the Expo.



Attendees at the C4 meeting held Saturday morning (left to right): Dave Palmer, Ken Bresset, Denis Wierzba, Diane Williams, Roger Siboni, Tom Rinaldo, Ray Williams, Mike Wierzba, Syd Martin, Mike Demming, and John Louis.

**FROM THE ARCHIVES:
THE CURIOUS McMINN TOKEN**
(Byron Weston)

McMinn Token

Message #28772
Tue Nov 16, 2004 9:30 am
"Byron Weston"

From the ANS website titled Coin Cabinet:

We also bought an item from the sale of the Jim Noble collection of tokens held in Australia in the summer of 1998. This is one of the enigmatic Irish eighteenth century tokens issued by Francis McMinn from Donaghadee in County Down in 1760, variety Davis 65 (fig. 49, 1998.144.1). This series was partly a local replacement for Wood's Hibernia halfpence, and many are dated in the 1720s and 1730s. Mike Ringo pointed out to us that the punches used to make the die for the McMinn token are the same as those used for the dies of the Voce Populi coins.



Message #28775
Tue Nov 16, 2004 10:43 am
mkringo@...

Good morning Byron and all,

Thanks for posting this photo- who shot it? Also, where did you find the text? The ANS site is somewhat difficult to navigate. I found a different image on the "Coin Cabinet" page (see Picture Page for Coin Cabinet). Back when I was spending time with John Kleeberg and Robert Martin at the ANS, I believe that John showed me this token, and I probably made the observation that the date punches looked very similar to those of the Voce Populi coppers. The larger of the letter punches also appear to be similar, but for a

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better analysis, overlays should probably be made by someone more adept at it than I.
Mike

*[Link provided in above message; "Picture Page for Coin Cabinet,"
<http://www.amnumsoc.org/annreps/rep98/images/98mod.htm> is no longer valid.]*

Message #28777

Tue Nov 16, 2004 10:58 am

"Byron Weston"

Gary Trudgen shot the image and did the research at the ANS site, Mike. I'd first heard of the McMinn token from Stan Stephens, came across this one and bought it. That's really about all that I can tell you. I thought it might get your attention...<s> Byron

Message #28780

Tue Nov 16, 2004 11:41 am

Steve Frank

[http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:iTYG6J-](http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:iTYG6J-DgM4J:www.amnumsoc.org/annreps/rep98/cncab.htm+%22mcminn+token%22&hl=en)

[DgM4J:www.amnumsoc.org/annreps/rep98/cncab.htm+%22mcminn+token%22&hl=en](http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:iTYG6J-DgM4J:www.amnumsoc.org/annreps/rep98/cncab.htm+%22mcminn+token%22&hl=en)

Mike,

The above link will bring you to the text. It is cached, so you should just scroll through until you find "Mcminn token" highlighted....it is in the lower third of the text.

Steve

[Link provided in the above message is no longer valid.]

Message #28781

Tue Nov 16, 2004 11:46 am

Steve Frank

Nice Byron,

Your file keeps growing.<s> I'd like to know if the Voce Populi collectors out there have followed this and have tried to look for these?

Steve

Message #28782

Tue Nov 16, 2004 11:51 am

"Stan Stephens"

Steve,

I haven't found one yet. Stan

**** THE CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT CORNER ****

THE *MERMAID* REMEMBERED

(Bob Bowser)

During a recent bout with house cleaning (my stuff, wife imposed of course), I reread John Kraljevich's article in the January 2006 issue of *The Numismatist* recounting the storied shipment of coinage from England to Boston in 1749 to account for King George's War expenses in the colonies. A very well done presentation by John, it explains the details of the massive influx of current colonial silver and copper regal halfpence and farthings into Massachusetts by the cargo of the *Mermaid* frigate. The newly minted coppers from the Tower Mint and the chests of silver pillar coinage and European silver were an unbelievable treasure for the money-starved North American colonists of the mid eighteenth century. He goes on to recount early eighteenth century collectors' observations that these regal coppers posed a significant contrast to those typically well-worn, light-weight and abused species that had been relegated to the colonies later in the century.

Although the estimated 800,000 halfpence and 400,000+ farthings, as proposed by Eric Newman, were sorely needed in circulation in the colonies, there were major logistic problems regarding the storage and transport of the cache. The trip up King Street, now State Street, from Boston harbor to a safe location became a real production, with 100 casks (read Kegs) of copper coin and 217 chests of silver to be moved from the docks. In the following year, when these coins began circulating, there must have been a great impact on the local economies, which had been using paper bills of credit for the most part.

As for the contemporary counterfeit collectors, 1749 dated, struck counterfeit examples are as scarce as coppers were for the colonists before the *Mermaid's* cargo was delivered in Boston. Today, though collectors still routinely find 1749 dated regal halfpence and farthings in dealers stock and internet inventories, examples of struck 1749 counterfeit halfpence are very rare. In the recent Stacks auctions of the well-known Mike Ringo Estate, only three of the lots included 1749 dated, struck coins. Finding so few 1749 dated halfpence in the midst of the thousands of coppers in his collection is quite indicative of their scarcity in comparison to the regal coinage of the same date.

So, some might think that 1749 was too early a date for the struck halfpence counterfeiters to deal with, as during that period most bogus coppers were being cast, but in reality there are quite a few struck varieties seen with dates ranging from 1731 to 1756. I offer here two examples for your enjoyment. The first (Figure 1) is a 1731 dated, crude style with a characteristic of disconnected body parts; the second (Figure 2) is a rare flipover, double-struck example dated 1751. Both pieces came from an old time British dealer's collection.



Figure 1 – Struck Counterfeit Halfpenny of 1737



Figure 2 – Flipover, Double Struck Counterfeit Halfpenny of 1751

****THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CORNER****

UNUSUAL COLONIAL “CURRENCY”

(Sydney F. Martin)

As a change of pace, I thought it might be interesting to examine a primitive form of “currency” used in the French-American regions of North America (which includes most of what is now the U.S. Midwest). The fur trade was of immense importance to the French, and trading with the indigenous Indians played a key role in it. With the onset of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress continued to sponsor such trade.¹

The Indians had little use for coins, and trade with them was primarily achieved through the barter of commodities. Commodities offered in exchange for furs were typically essentials such as blankets, bullets, knives, and the like. However, the Indians developed a taste for silver items that could be worn as jewelry, and a thriving business grew up around making such items. As just one example, in 1801 Angus Mackintosh, an Indian Trader located near what is now Windsor, Canada, ordered the following silver items from Robert Cruickshank, a silversmith in Montreal: 10 sets of gorgets; 8 sets of moons; 16,000 small brooches; 5,000 large brooches; 8 large armbands; 150 earwheels; 30 large crosses; 15 headbands; 3,000 pairs small ear bobs; and 12 hairpipes.²

Interestingly, where the colonial silversmiths got the silver to make such pieces was of concern to the colonial Government, as much came from melting scarce silver coins withdrawn from circulation.^{3,4}

Figure 1 shows a small silver brooch made by R. Cruickshank (1759-1809) – possibly from the lot cited above, while Figure 2 is a blow-up of his mark. The workmanship is quite good. It is of fine silver, weighs 24.2 grains, and is 19(w) x 29.6(t) mm in size. [From the author’s collection.]

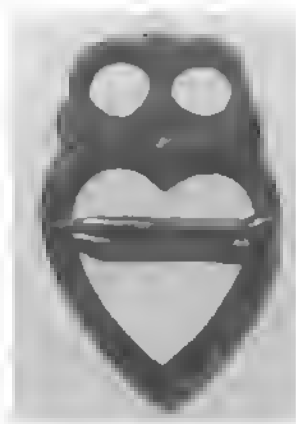
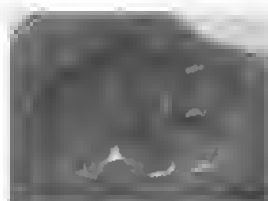


Figure 1. A small heart-shaped brooch, made c. 1800 by Robert Cruickshank for the Indian trade.

Figure 2. The mark of Robert Cruickshank, as used on the items he made for the Indian trade.



At any rate, such items achieved the status of currency, and can easily be considered to fall within the “colonial money” category.

NOTE: anyone interested in learning more about this facet of colonial currency should obtain and study the references cited in the Endnotes.

ENDNOTES

1 Hamilton, Martha Wilson. *Silver in the Fur Trade 1680-1829*, Hyannis, MA: On-Cape Lithographers, 1995, pp. 6-111

2 Hamilton, op. cit., pp. 211-13.

3 Stevens, Geoff. “Melting of Coins for Indian Trade Silver,” *C4 Newsletter*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Vol. 16, no. 1, pp. 34-35.

4 Shortt, Adam. *Documents Relating to Canadian Currency, Exchange and Finance During the French Period – Volume 1*, Ottawa: F. A. Acland, 1925.

ANA NATIONAL CONVENTION

(Dave Menchell)

The ANA was lightly attended. Most dealers I spoke with were less than enthusiastic; a couple actually made arrangements to leave before Sunday due to poor sales. The location of the Convention Center in downtown Los Angeles was a problem. The facility itself was fine; but, the location was not in a busy area. Even the major convention hotels were several blocks away. Downtown LA is not like New York or Baltimore – there's not a lot of activity aside from the hotels and several restaurants, particularly on the weekend. The most excitement was at the arena across from the Convention Center, where the Jonas Brothers were appearing, and the screaming adolescent girls were not particularly interested in the ANA or Colonial coins. I think West Coast shows, aside from Long Beach, do not attract the same number of active collectors as shows on the East Coast or Midwest.

Having said that, we had a good, albeit somewhat reduced C4 meeting at the show. There were ten people in attendance, and there was an active exchange about collecting interests and purchasing Colonials. It was mentioned that there were some Colonials of note in the series of sales during the week, including a large number of Continental Dollars. Among those in attendance at the meeting were Dan Freidus, Jim Goudge, Ken Bressett, Robert Rhue, Tom Rinaldo, Chris McCawley, and Doug Law. It has already been mentioned that Jim had an outstanding exhibit of Connecticut coppers by Breen number in ten cases. It was awarded third place in U.S. coins. Also of interest at the show was a flyer circulated by George Kolbe announcing a soon-to-be published book by George Fuld on the Washington Pattern Coinage of Peter Getz. There is a discount if ordered before October, so anyone interested should contact George. I also heard at the show that George will be auctioning the Stack's reference library next year; and David Sklow also announced that he will be selling Dave Bowers' reference material utilized for researching his umpteen books (not necessarily all numismatic, but of historical interest) in a series of three auctions.

I also attended the Saturday morning breakfast where the club publication awards were given, and accepted the third place award for the *C4 Newsletter*, which we shared with the *Medal Collectors of America Advisory*. Our competition in first and second places were the *Casino Chips* publication and *Paper Money Society Newsletter*, which are big, slick magazines similar to the *Numismatist* and *ANS Magazine*, so we did fine.

All in all, it was a fun show if you weren't a dealer.

GUNMONEY AT FERRYLAND

(Jack Howes)

In 1620 George Calvert, Secretary of State to James I of England, obtained a parcel of land on the southeast coast of what is now Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. Calvert appointed Edward Wynne to establish a colony, which became the first successful permanent colony in Newfoundland. In August 1621 the first eleven settlers arrived to begin construction of the Colony of Avalon, which by 1625 had grown to a population of 100. The Charter of Avalon was granted to Lord Baltimore by James I. Dated 7 April 1623 it created the Province of Avalon and gave Baltimore complete authority over all matters in the territory. That same year Baltimore chose Ferryland as the principle area of settlement.



LORD BALTIMORE



FERRYLAND IN 1693

There is active archeological work on-going, and from time-to-time they find coins. One of some interest, a piece of Irish gunmoney, is described on the following page.

Berry: Numismatics of Ferryland**Ireland: James II**

38. CgAf-2:381824 AE shilling Dec. 1689 6.26 grams 24.9 mm

Context: Area F, Event 463, Kirke house refuse, late seventeenth century.

This coin forms part of a very distinctive group of base metal pieces called "Gun money" (because they were made of scrap metal from old cannon, bells etc.) that were issued in Ireland during the period from 1689 to 1690. The design of most of these coins consisted of a crown over crossed maces surrounded by a legend on the reverse and a laureate bust of James II facing left surrounded by a legend including the monarch's name on the obverse. Enough of the reverse design (maces, crown and portions of the legend "...MAG BR. FRA...") survive to be certain of identification. These pieces are quite unusual among coins in that the month of issue is also included in the legend. The diameter of the coin (25 mm) would suggest that it is a shilling of the first issue (the second issue was reduced in size.) This issue was produced through 1689 and into the early 1690s. The numeral "10" and letter "r" below the crown on the reverse indicates that December was the month of issue.

I don't recall whether any of the East coast "diggers" have ever recovered gun money.

SOURCES

Berry, Paul. "The Numismatics of Ferryland," *Avalon Chronicles*, Vol. 7, 2002. Published by the Colony of Avalon Foundation.

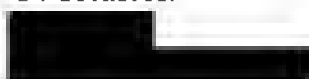
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/avalon/tour/avalon1_text_tour.html

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/43/Mapof_ferryland.jpg

C4 Membership Dues – 2010

Annual dues are currently \$25.00 for Regular Membership and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. You may pay your dues for next year at the C4 convention in Boston, or mail a check (made out to "C4") to...

Charlie Rohrer
C4 Treasurer



Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes my job easier and is much appreciated!

MEET C4's NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Our President, Ray Williams, has suggested that brief biographies of C4 volunteers – both elected and appointed – be published in the *C4 Newsletter*. This will enable our membership to get to know them on a more informal, personal level. Such informality has always been a hallmark of our club, and we want to encourage it. Each of these volunteers gives significant time to the organization, and obviously is committed to it. They welcome your participation and involvement, and look forward to continuing to support the hobby. Get to know them – interact with them – help them when you can.

The volunteers highlighted on the following pages are:

Ray Williams, President
Dave Palmer, National Vice President
Frank Stiemel, Secretary
Charles Rohrer, Treasurer
Leo Shane, Librarian
Syd Martin, *C4 Newsletter* Editor

These individuals are supported by Regional Vice Presidents (elected) and committee chairpersons (appointed), as noted on our masthead at the beginning of the *Newsletter*.

RAY WILLIAMS -- PRESIDENT



The picture of the handsome guy included with this short article is that of your current C4 President, me, Ray Williams. It is my hope that over the next several issues of C4N, all the C4 officers will introduce themselves as I'm doing here. Many of you have never met or talked to us and I felt it important that you know a little about those running your club. It's also important to know that you should feel free to contact ANY of us at any time.

I'm an electronic technician, live in Trenton and have lived in NJ all my life, with the exception of a free residence at Fort Jackson, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in the early 70's. I started collecting coins by earning the Coin Collecting Merit Badge in 1963. Coin collecting was placed in stasis when I discovered cars, girls and a job. In the 1980s, I came back to collecting, filled in those empty holes in my Whitman folders, and then continued to acquire a complete date/mint mark set of cents starting with 1793.

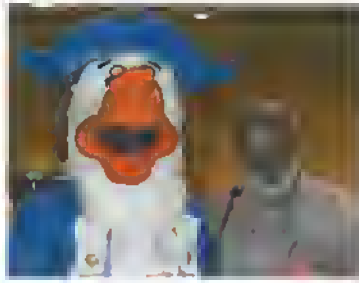
I discovered colonials through my involvement with an estate at my wife's bank. I became addicted to colonials on April 20th, 1991 when John Griffie insisted I attend the First NJ Copper Symposium in Wayne, NJ. The following weekend, I purchased five NJ Coppers from Don Mituzas and several books from Charlie Davis at the EAC Convention in Boston.

Briefly, I am a 25 year member of ANA, a Fellow of the ANS, CNL subscriber, 20 year member of EAC, current 2nd VP of the Garden State Numismatic Association, member and past president of the NJ Numismatic Society, and member and past president of the Trenton Numismatic Club. I have always felt it important to be involved in all aspects of the hobby – at local, state and national levels.

I specialize in collecting NJ Coppers by die variety, and I try to collect type coins of other areas of colonial numismatics. I also collect books about any aspect of colonial coins and economics & history. I have made many friends in the hobby and they have become an important part of my life. The most important factor of my enjoyment in this hobby is my wife Diane. She is supportive in many ways, and holds me back when I start losing perspective. If not for her, I would have a much nicer collection but we'd be living in a shack! Diane helps me in so many ways with bobby obligations. Many have met her at conventions and she has befriended many of my friends too.

I am always accessible to any C4 member. I thank you all for electing me as your C4 President. It is a great honor that I'm both proud of and humbled by.

DAVID L. PALMER, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



I was born in California in 1952. My father got a series of promotions and off to New York, by way of New Orleans we went.

I started collecting stamps at 5, then coins at 7 with Lincoln cents. I graduated to Morgan dollars at about 9, but always looked at the colonials in the Red Book and dreamed.

At 9, my parents started their own business, and money was tight, so very little went into my collection, unless I could trade for it with friends. Once the business was actually making money, I was paid the enormous sum of 50 cents per hour for helping.

By this time, desired shopping areas had moved to the Roosevelt Field Mall, the first mall on Long Island. When my mom went to the mall, I would get dropped off at the coin counter at Gimbel's. I made friends with a gentleman named Art Diamond. He would talk to me for hours about coins, medals and tokens. His only proviso was that when a paying customer walked up, I had to sit quietly while he took care of his/her needs, and then it was back to "our time." I am certain I would have lost interest in coins had it not been for Mr. Diamond. I earned coin collecting merit badge in Scouts.

In 1972 I found myself stationed at Elmendorf AFB, in Anchorage, Alaska – newly married and underpaid. My supervisor, SSGT Doug Komm, asked if I wanted to take over his coin booth at the local flea market. I started out helping him for a couple of shows, trying to learn how to buy and sell, AND make a profit while doing so. He sold me some coins to get started, and got me a few contacts in the "lower 48" to replenish my stock, and *voila!*, I was a coin dealer.

When I separated from the Air Force in 1975, I came back to the family business, but as is often the case in that type of business, dad didn't pay enough to survive on, so I once again started vest pocket dealing coins.

Coincident to the run up in silver and gold in 1979-80, I opened my own coin shop. I found within months that I could not sit in the shop waiting for things to happen, and eight months later I closed it. Numerous weekend and/or Sunday shows later, I got tired of that as well, and chose to just go to coin shows to buy and sell as the mood hit me. I drifted into collecting Large Cents of 1793-1814, along with a few colonials. Then came Fugios and Machin's Mill coinage, and I was hooked. EAC is a great organization, and they helped me to understand the coppers I liked, as well as gave me a venue to buy, and then sell my collection of 310 varieties. I put all the money I made from the sale of them into colonials of various stripes. I particularly like Connecticuts, counterstamped coins, and now my new love – contemporary counterfeit British and Irish coppers.

I have been the regional VP for Region 2, and am now National VP. I am happy to serve C4 in any capacity, as it is the finest group of people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

FRANK STEIMEL -- SECRETARY



I am a retired marine ecologist, spending four decades (minus some Army time) with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service studying the insults to the nearby ocean and estuaries, and life within, and how to do things better with them. I try to stay active in our community and volunteer my time, pickup truck, muscle, and expertise for many local estuarine conservation/restoration and other community projects. My wife thinks upgrading our home should be the major community project I should work at, but what fun is that?

My photo shows that I have a large interest in "colonials" and have been infected since the early 1960s, when I got bored of mostly completed "blue boards" for 20th century coins that were filled via pocket change and pawing through my relative's spare change jars. I started collecting foreign coins earlier in the 1950s as a kid accompanying my military family to Europe and North Africa. But I saw and got my first taste of the colonial bug when a local hole-in-wall (almost literally) coin shop had a few in a case and they intrigued me, perhaps because I was living in central NJ, a colonial and revolutionary war history-rich area. My collection started about 1963 with a \$5 fine+ 1787 Connecticut (M33.1-Z13) still in my collection, then I went for one coin from each state, then from each year from each state, red book varieties, etc., you know how it goes, as per my budget limit. They have never been mere valuable or attractive objects to me, I treasured all my old coins, medals and such, especially worn ones, as part of our history and culture, and a stimulus to my continuing education in history. My current collecting interests are somewhat controlled by my small budget and mostly focus on medals and jetons related to events, treaties, and such historically significant to our evolution into a independent nation, but of course my eyes are always open for any affordable "colonials" I do not have or could upgrade.

During my collecting decades, I have been or am a member or supporter of ANA, EAC, TAMS, the CNLF and local clubs. I was enthusiastically present when Mike Hodder called the meeting at an EAC show suggesting there were enough people seriously interested in colonials to form our own club. I have contributed several articles to the CNL and the *C4 Newsletter* on new varieties, observations, and information reviews. I volunteered to support Ray as his C4 recording secretary in 1991 and hope I never miss a Boston meeting and seeing friends from behind the lot viewing table and elsewhere.

CHARLIE ROHRER -- TREASURER



I was born in Lancaster, PA and have lived here all my life, with the exception of a stint at college, where I was educated well beyond my intelligence. I have worked in the printing industry my entire career and currently am an estimator for a large periodical and commercial printer. My wife, Deb, patiently allows me time for my numismatic obsessions. My two children, Christopher and Elizabeth, and my two step-children, Katelyn and Allyson, are all between the ages of 17 and 20, and seem to conspire to limit my funds for coin collecting.

I started collecting coins when I was 12 years old. My mother gave me a Whitman folder for Lincoln cents that she had partially filled when she was younger. After that I was hooked. I shortly thereafter joined the Lancaster Red Rose Coin Club in 1972, and am currently serving as the club's president. I started by collecting federal coinage and over time gravitated toward early issues, particularly half cents, large cents and bust halves. I also developed interests in several areas of exnumia, my largest of these collections being tokens and obsolete paper money of Lancaster City and County, PA. Additionally, I collect Indian artifacts that I find on an island in the Susquehanna River where I have a cabin. I also collect antiques, particularly 'smalls' from the 1700's and 1800's.

In addition to being a member of C4, I am also a member of EAC, the ANS, and the Civil War Token Society. Although I've been a member of C4 since 1994, and had been buying a few colonials and related coins over the years, my interest in and exposure to colonials dramatically increased in February 2005, when I joined the colonial-coins yahoo e-group, looking for more information on Machin's Mill counterfeit halfpence. Through that e-group I've been able to get to 'know' many C4 members and benefit from their knowledge and opinions of a variety of related topics.

My pride and enthusiasm in being a member of C4 really took off when I attended my first C4 Convention in 2006. Meeting so many of the C4 members and witnessing their enthusiasm about the hobby was exhilarating! Since then, my numismatic collecting has been almost entirely of the US colonial era. My 'colonial' collection is a sampling of various Red Book types and foreign coins of the period that could have circulated in the colonies, while my main area of focus is currently contemporary counterfeit British and Irish halfpence and farthings of the 18th century.

I am proud to be a member of C4 and to be associated with so many fine, knowledgeable and considerate ladies and gentlemen. I'm especially proud to serve as your treasurer. I'm looking forward to this year's C4 convention and seeing all the familiar faces, as well as meeting new friends.

SYDNEY F. MARTIN, EDITOR – *C4 NEWSLETTER*

I am a Life Member of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), and have been the editor of, and contributor to, its award-winning, quarterly *C4 Newsletter* for many years. A Life Member and Trustee of the American Numismatic Society (ANS), I have contributed frequently to its quarterly *Colonial Newsletter*. I have presented at the Coinage of the Americas Conference, and lectured at both national and regional coin shows on a wide range of numismatic topics. A member of the National Bibliomania Society, I serve on its



Board. I am a Life Member of the American Numismatic Association, and belong to both the Early American Coppers club and the Token and Medal Society. I authored *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood – 1722-1724*, published by C4 in 2007, and am working hard on my next book, *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*. Always interested in history, I began collecting colonial and pre-Federal coins and medals in the early 1990s, and consider myself a generalist in these areas. Probably because I began collecting by filling holes in the ubiquitous Whitman folders, I tend to strive for set completeness.

I grew up in a military family, moving about the country until high school, when my father retired from the Air Force and the family settled in Warsaw, Indiana. I attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, receiving both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Industrial Management. Beginning in college, and continuing to the present, I have been engaged in the defense industry, specializing in systems analysis, intelligence, and counter-terrorism. I formed my own company, Sytex, in 1988 and although a major defense firm acquired most of it in 2005, continue to actively manage MacAulay-Brown, Inc., a 2,000-person company specializing in air, space, and ground weapon system development and test; information warfare; electronic intelligence; and tactical mission support.

In addition to various corporate Boards, I sit on the Boards of several non-profit societies, including the Michener Museum, the Heritage Conservancy, the Doylestown Historical Society, the Boy Scouts, and the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

Along with my wife, Sharon (who took the above photo), I divide my time between Amelia Island, Florida, and Doylestown, Pennsylvania. None of my children – Kevin, Daniel, Jessica, and James – are “into” numismatics, but who can tell about the grandkids (Landis, 7; Turner, 4; Graeme, 3; and Nyla, 8 mo.) yet!

LEO SHANE -- LIBRARIAN



Hi, my name is Leo Shane, the C4 Librarian. The Library is a great resource for researchers, both novice and veteran. Take advantage of it. I volunteered, and was appointed by Ray Williams, in November of 2001. I chose the Library position because I wanted to get more involved in C4 and its activities. I have a great interest in reading colonial American history, and being Librarian seemed like a natural fit. This is one of those cases where my efforts as Librarian are far exceeded by what I have received in return through new friendships.

I am currently a Regional Sales Manager with a company that sells instrumentation and control equipment to industrial plants, pharmaceutical companies, municipal water and waste treatment plants. I live in Warminster PA, a suburb 20 miles north of center city Philadelphia. I've lived in the area all my life. I'm always on the lookout for things of historical significance when I travel.

My love of history has also prompted me to enroll in a certificate program in Historical Preservation at the local community college. The program led me to the many aspects of researching and preserving historical buildings and artifacts. Some of those artifacts were colonial coins. The final step was independent study and of course, mine involved colonial coins. Part of my study resulted in a C4 newsletter article combining my profession (sales) with my love for coins and history. It was entitled "An 18th Century Merchants Dilemma." Coins used by colonial merchants is the area of collecting where I currently spend most of my time and funds.

In the late 1950's at age 7, I started collecting with the encouragement of one of the Mom's in my neighborhood. Like others, at first I tried to fill in the blue Whitman folders. I still have a well worn 1916 D Walking Liberty Half Dollar that I received from a school buddy of mine. He was going to use it for "milk money" but I convinced him to wait a day until I could pay him back. With a short break during my college years, I was able to get many of the 20th century series completed. My interests then turned to Type collecting and then to Colonial Red Book Type collecting. With only rarities left, I broadened my collecting to coins used by colonial merchants. I also have a few related items, namely books, almanacs and a scale with weights.

In addition to C4, I am a member of ANS, EAC, ANA and NSCA. I'm also a member of a number of Church groups and Historical societies. My wife is a registered dietitian and keeps me eating well. Her efforts will probably extend my life many years. She has been extremely patient with my coin collecting activities and my obsession with American history. I have three wonderful children, a son and a daughter married and out the door and a daughter at home. They refer to me as me being a "Coin Geek." I tell them I prefer the term "Coin Weenie." Find me at the annual C4 convention and say "Hi".

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following three books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), as well as joining the club, visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis, Numismatic Literature, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984; Tel: 978-468-2933; Fax: (978) 468 7893; email: numislit@aol.com.

(1) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002.

(3) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007.

(2) Vlack, Robert, *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004.

THE COPPER COINS OF VERMONT – AVAILABLE AGAIN

As a result of a small number of unbound copies of the Carlotto book having been located, a new binding has been prepared to make the book available after having been out of print for a number of years. The new binding, prepared by the Harcourt Bindery in Boston, is in a fine brown cloth, rounded spine, with the Vermont logo stamped in copper on the front board. Each contains a letterpress bookplate cast by the Firefly Press, also in Boston, which is numbered and signed by Tony Carlotto. A single page errata is also bound in. While otherwise textually identical to the original, it is a superior binding and adds the cachet of a signed bookplate. While we have begun selling the book to the general public, we have reserved the lowest numbers for C-4 members. The price is \$150.00 plus \$6.00 shipping.

A very small number of unbound copies was also reserved for two styles of numbered and signed leather bindings and are priced at \$550.00 and \$375.00, each plus \$8.00 shipping. Orders for all books should be sent to Charles Davis, Box 547, Wenham Mass 01984

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT



The Washington Pattern Coinage of Peter Getz

By George Fuld

A meticulous census of all specimens known, accompanied by pedigrees, auction records, weights, diameters, condition, detailed descriptions, and other pertinent data. Copies will be produced on a high quality laser printer and will feature full-color enlargements of virtually all of the pieces described. Also included is a discussion of the real status of Baker 23, the unique Getz Large Eagle pattern. In addition, the story of the Washington ladle, which has a silver 1797 Getz Masonic medal, Baker 288, in its bowl, is documented for the first time in numismatic circles.

Special Discounted Price For orders received by December 31, 2009

- ✓ Spiral-Bound Edition \$75.00 per Copy Postpaid in USA
- ✓ Cloth-Bound Edition \$110.00 per Copy Postpaid in USA

Regular Retail Price For orders received by December 31, 2010

- ✓ Spiral-Bound Edition \$100.00 per Copy Postpaid in USA
- ✓ Cloth-Bound Edition \$135.00 per Copy Postpaid in USA

No orders will be accepted after December 31, 2010

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – 2009 C4 CONVENTION

Annual C4 Convention November 19th - November 22nd, 2009

Bay State Coin Show, Boston, Massachusetts

Radisson Hotel (Theater District), 617-482-1800 (for reservations only...not for show information) and ask for the special "Bay State Coin Show" rates.

Schedule of Events

Thursday	4:30 – 8:30PM	Dealer Set-up on Bourse Floor
	8:30 - ?	C4 Reception - Carver Salon III (C4 & EAC Members)
Friday	7:30 AM	Publications Committee Breakfast Meeting (in Hotel Restaurant)
	8:00 AM	Bourse opens to Dealers
	10:00 AM	Bourse opens to Public
	11:00 - 5:00PM	C4 Auction Lot Viewing (C4 & EAC Members only)
	1:30PM	Vermont Copper Study Group
	5:30 - 7:00PM	Nonregal Study Group Meeting David Palmer - Carver Salon III
	7:00PM	Bourse Closed
	Friday Evening Educational Forum (Carver Salon III) (C4 & EAC Members)	
	<i>Time slots are approximate for the speakers:</i>	
	7:00 - 7:30PM	Refreshments
Saturday	7:30PM	"The MA Pine Tree Copper Penny – Real or Fake?" - Anne Bentley from the MA Historical Society
	8:30PM	"Rosa Americana Coinage and Its Importance to Colonial Numismatics" - Syd Martin
	9:00PM	Refreshments
	9:15PM	What Would Crosby Do?: Going Beyond the Basics in Researching Colonial Numismatics - David Fanning
	10:00PM	"The Second State Coinage Symposium" – VTs (Tony Carlotto), NJs (Jack Howes), CTs (Randy Clark) & MAs (Mike Packard)
	7:00 AM	C4 Board Breakfast Meeting
	8:30 AM	C4 Annual Membership Business Meeting – Carver Salon III
	9:00 AM	Bourse opens to Dealers
	10:00 AM	Bourse open to Public
	10:00 - 5:30PM	Auction Lot Viewing (C4 & EAC Members)
Sunday	12:30 - 2:00PM	Colonial Happening – Carver Salon III Eric Hildebrant – Camel Head NJ Coppers with undertypes
	2:00 - 3:00PM	"Collecting Colonial Paper Money" Ray Williams – Carver Salon III
	3:00 - 4:00PM	Scott Travers – Carver Salon III
	6:00PM	Refreshments – Carver Salon III
	6:30PM	C4 Auction – Carver Salon III M&G Auctions
	7:00 PM	Bourse closes
	9:30 AM	Bourse open to Dealers
	10:30AM	Lot Pickup
	10:30 - 3:00	Bourse open to the Public

CONVENTION ATTENDEES...PLEASE READ

Above is the tentative schedule for the C4 Convention at the time it was submitted to your editor. Please double check the schedule and room locations when you arrive at the hotel.

C4 Vermont Happening: We are holding a Vermont "Happening" on Friday November 20, 2009 at 1:30PM during the C4 Convention. Please bring all your varieties to share with your fellow C4 members. Jack Howes will be photographing examples for a new set of Vermont plates being assembled. We are particularly interested in die states, variety and/or condition rarities and any other unusual Vermont pieces.

Students of the **Counterfeit British Halfpence and Farthings** will take note that there is a study group meeting at 5:30 on Friday afternoon in Carver Salon III. The topic for discussion and study is about "**Mules**"... Those coins with impossible dates – coins with GEORGE II obverses and GEORGE III reverse dates, and vica versa. Please bring any and all you have for study and a possible publication.

Our Friday evening Educational Forum culminates with a **State Copper Symposium**. This is our second of these events and the first was well received. It is moderated by four C4 members that specialize in each State Coinage. This is an informal discussion about the most current information on each coinage. It's also a forum for asking questions, bring along coins that might be of interest to others or coins you have questions about. Mike Packard has asked me to inform those with Massachusetts copper coins to please bring along unusual die states, or any coins of interest. I'm sure this applies to the other state coinages as well.

At 12:30 on Saturday afternoon, there will be a Colonial Happening where the object of discussion, study and photography will be the **camel head NJ Coppers with undertypes**. These are the Maris 56-n, 57-n and 58-n. Whether you have one or a hundred, please plan to bring them with you for study at this event.

Although there is not a formal study on the topic, Syd Martin will be present at the convention and if any have examples of **Rosa Americana** coinage that Syd has not seen, please bring them with you so that the eventual publication of his book will be as thorough and accurate as possible. Again, if you have just one, or a hundred, please bring them along for Syd to study and possibly photograph.

That being said, if you have any coins that you have questions about, interesting planchets or dies, please bring them along. I (or just about any C4 member) can direct you to the collectors who can answer your questions. If you have any questions about the convention, please contact me – my contact info is in the front of each *C4 Newsletter*.

This is how we have FUN!

Ray

NEW C4 CONVENTION “COLONIAL HAPPENING” AND EXHIBITS

The "Colonial Happening" for the November, 2009 C4 convention will be the New Jersey Copper Variety: "56-n". This is the "common" Camel Head New Jersey that is noted for having been struck on planchets that were previously other coins. Members are encouraged to bring their more interesting specimens showing the undertypes well. A record as to the weight and under type will be taken. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Also, I will be co-ordinating the member exhibits for the convention this November. If you are thinking about exhibiting, please contact me, and we will discuss number of cases, logistics, etc. All members are encouraged to exhibit and participate in what should be a very informative "Happening".

Thanks, Eric Hildebrandt, ehildebrandt@draper.com.

In accordance with our newly adopted by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your regional VP or the President of the Club, Ray Williams. The new provisional members are:

Ronald Gammill – MI
Dan Lesicko – IL
Rodger Olinger – CA
John Sendlock – PA
Michael Spurlock – AR

NEW DUES INFORMATION.....

C4 dues have increased to \$25 per year!

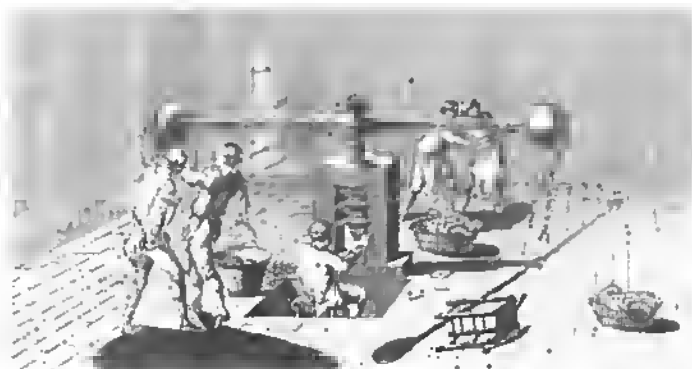
We have suspended accepting Life Membership Applications while the C4 Board seeks advice with respect to restructuring the costs vs. expenses.

[illegible]

The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :
<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob..http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=OEifzd5ZR~x~8=>

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

A Research Journal in Early American Numismatics



Hear ye! Hear ye!

The subscription price of *CNL* has been rolled back.

ANS members: \$25 per year. Non-ANS members: \$40 per year.

Take advantage of this significant price reduction. Contact Megan Fenselau at the ANS; e-mail membership@numismatics.org; telephone (212) 571-4470 Ext. 117, or go to the ANS website at www.numismatics.org/pmwiki/index.php?n=CNL.CNL to subscribe online or download a subscription form.



In response to your Editor's challenge to see who could find the earliest reference to a contemporary counterfeit English or Irish halfpenny, the following response is the only one received:

I saw your announcement for the first auction of a contemporary counterfeit in the last *C4 Newsletter*, and since I'm working on a bibliography and looking through older catalogues I tried giving it a shot but came up with nothing. The closest I could come was lot 629 of the S.K. Harzfeld sale of Sept. 1879, described as such: "Georgivus III Vis Base Halfpenny, circulated in Vermont and Pennsylvania. Worn Scarce" Undoubtly a British evasion copper. The earliest illustration of a counterfeit British Halfpenny would probably be Betts "Counterfeit Halfpence;" he has a line drawing of an obverse of a 1775 British piece as well as an obverse and reverse of a 1785 counterfeit Halfpenny. The earliest photo I could come up with in an auction catalogue is Hans Schulman's Alvin van Loan Gaines Sale, 1968, lot 1143, which looks like a 1750 George II defiant head copper. Anyway, just thought I would pass these tidbits along. I'm looking forward to sceing what others come up with.

Marc Mayhugh

C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Thank You to all for your donations to the C4 Library. Your contributions are appreciated by all C4 members.

The C4 Library wants your old auction catalogs. Now is the time to look through all of those old auction catalogs that have been sitting on the shelf and put them to good use. I have been working on a project to put all catalogs that contain colonials in an archive in the C4 Library. These can be borrowed by all members for research, provenance searches, etc. Catalogs with major colonial collections will be held intact. Those with lesser but at least one colonial coin will have the colonial portion saved and the rest discarded. The Cover, Title Page, Table of Contents, Colonial Coin Section and any Plates containing Colonials will be saved.

The list of about 500 catalogs currently in the library is posted in the library holdings on the club website. One section contains the catalogs held intact. The other contains the catalogs with the colonial content only. Please look through both sections and see what you have to donate. I can also email you the list if desired. Please contact me if you would like to meet at a show or the annual convention so you do not have to mail them. Now is the time to look through those stacks of old catalogs. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Below are new items donated to the club since the last *C4 Newsletter*. They are now available for loan to any C4 member. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website : www.colonialcoins.org.

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Stacks, *The Philadelphia Americana Sale Part One: American Paper Currency*, 23-26 September 2009, Philadelphia, PA. Donated by Stacks.

Stacks, *The Philadelphia Americana Sale Part Two: Coins Medals and Americana*, 23-26 September 2009, Philadelphia, PA. Donated by Stacks.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank You, my e-mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at [REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	6" x 9"
1/2 page	\$60	\$90	\$120	\$150	6" x 4.5"

NOTE: THESE RATES WILL INCREASE BEGINNING WITH VOLUME 18.

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

An interesting selection of 18th century British Tokens

plus some Regal & Colonial Coins and a few Odds and Ends

Many tokens currently listed on our web site; our inventory is updated frequently. Please take a look ~ comments and commentary welcome. Always in the market to buy ~ contact me at your convenience.

Gary Groll CTCC~EAC~C4~ANA

P.O. Box 255 White Hall, Va. 22987:

~ gary@grollcoins.com ~ www.grollcoins.com

Thanks to an ANS grant I am working on a study of circulating coins and currencies of the French and Indian Wars period (1689-1763). I would be very grateful for information on any American and Canadian metal detector finds dating to this period as well as any coins in collections that have find provenances attached to them. Contact: Oliver D.

Hoover,

Email: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca

Del Parker, irishcoins2000@hotmail.com.

[illegible]

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[illegible]

I have for sale a small number of carefully selected colonial type coins, a fairly large number of Sheldon and Newcomb variety large cents, and an interesting array of numismatic literature. These coins, reference books, and auction catalogs came mostly from our C4/EAC dealer friends, national auctions, and a few cherry-picks. Check it out at www.iohndimbauercoins.com.

I encourage you to call me with a trial order to see if you like the high quality, accurate descriptions, and fair prices. Coins sent on approval to C4 and EAC members. I am a long-standing member of ANA, ANS, C4, EAC-571, NBS, and NENA.

John Dirnbauer:

Email: john@johndimbauercoins.com.

David F. Fanning

Numismatic Literature



Auction III — December 3

We will be conducting our third mail-bid auction of numismatic literature, closing on Thursday, December 3. The sale includes a number of works of interest to collectors of early American coins, tokens, paper money and medals.

Printed catalogues are available upon request; the sale may also be downloaded from our Web site. Contact us today to be added to our mailing list, and see our Web site for additional information.

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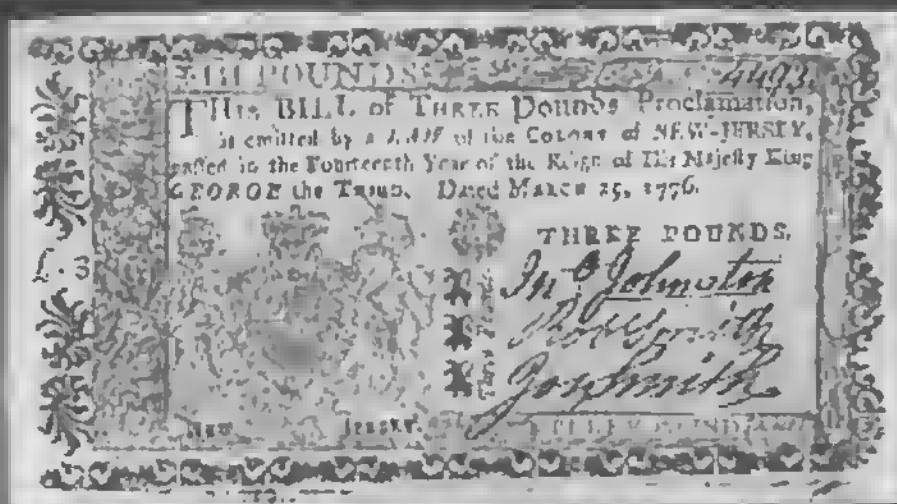
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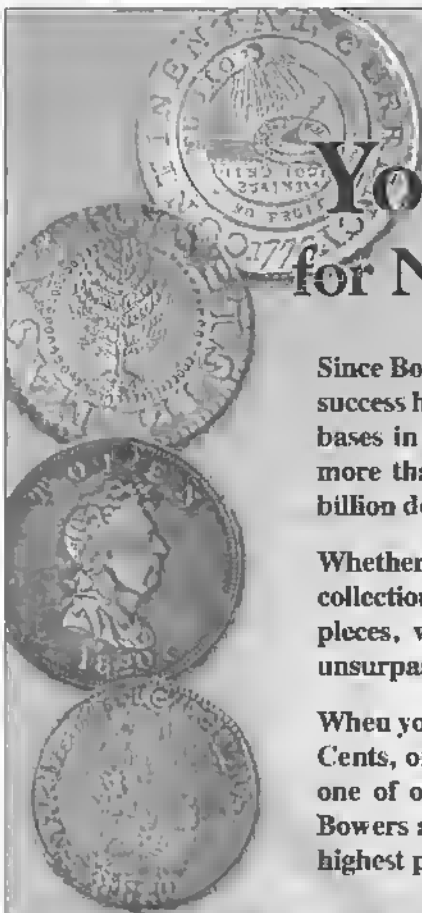


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